

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A method operable on a computer for responding to a barter order, the barter order including a first security to be sold in a barter and a second security to be purchased in the barter, the method comprising the steps of:
 - receiving a rule including at least one condition for automatically responding to the barter order;
 - comparing on the computer the barter order to the at least one condition comprising the rule; and
 - automatically responding to the barter order in accordance with the at least one condition of the rule.
2. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein:
at least one of the first security or the second security includes a quantity thereof; and
the barter order further including an effective time range.
3. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the at least one condition includes at least one variable selected from the group of variables including: the identity of one or more of the first and second securities, the delta between the buy and sell prices of the first and second securities, the relationship of the SIC codes of the first or second securities or any other securities, the market cap of the first or second securities, the average daily volume traded of the first or second securities and the debit value of the bid/ask spread of the first and second securities.
4. (original) A method in accordance with claim 3 wherein each of the conditions further includes a mathematical operator and a value.

5. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein:
each of the rules further includes at least one pricing tier comprising an offer price range within which a rule is operative and an offer size value up to which a rule is operative; and if the rule is operative and if the at least one condition of the rule is satisfied, then further comprising the steps of:

if the barter offer is a limit order, performing one of the steps of
trading the first and second securities, and
posting the barter offer for consideration for execution;

if the barter offer is a market order, trading the first and second securities; and
if a contra barter offer is accepted, trading the first and second securities.

6. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the step of automatically responding includes prompting the operator to provide a manual response.

7. (original) A system for responding to a barter order, the system comprising:
a processor;
a memory operatively connected to the processor and storing the barter order including a first security to be sold in the barter and a second security to be purchased in the barter; said memory further storing a rule including at least one condition for automatically responding to the barter order;
the processor operative with control instructions stored in the memory to perform the steps of
comparing on the computer the barter order to the at least one condition comprising the rule; and
automatically responding to the barter order in accordance with the at least one condition of the rule.

8. (original) A system in accordance with claim 7 wherein:
at least one of the first security or the second security includes a quantity thereof; and

the barter order further including an effective time range.

9. (original) A system in accordance with claim 7 wherein the at least one condition includes at least one variable selected from the group of variables including: the identity of one or more of the first and second securities, the delta between the buy and sell prices of the first and second securities, the relationship of the SIC codes of the first or second securities or any other securities, the market cap of the first or second securities, the average daily volume traded of the first or second securities and the debit value of the bid/ask spread of the first and second securities.

10. (original) A system in accordance with claim 9 wherein each of the conditions further includes a mathematical operator and a value.

11. (original) A system in accordance with claim 7 wherein each of the rules further includes at least one pricing tier comprising an offer price range within which a rule is operative and an offer size value up to which a rule is operative; and

if the rule is operative and if the at least one condition of the rule is satisfied, further comprising the steps of:

if the barter offer is a limit order, performing one of the steps of
trading the first and second securities, and
posting the barter offer for consideration for execution;

if the barter offer is a market order, trading the first and second securities; and
if a contra barter offer is accepted, trading the first and second securities.

12. (original) A system in accordance with claim 7 wherein the step of automatically responding includes prompting the operator to provide a manual response.

13. (original) A method for responding to a barter order, the barter order including a first security to be sold in a barter and a second security to be purchased in the barter, the method

comprising the steps of:

receiving a rule for automatically responding to the barter order;
comparing the barter order to the at least one condition comprising the rule; and
automatically responding to the barter order in accordance with the at least one condition of the rule.

14. (original) A system for responding to a barter order, the barter order including a first security to be sold in a barter and a second security to be purchased in the barter, the system comprising:

means for receiving a rule including at least one condition for automatically responding to the barter order;

means for comparing the barter order to the at least one condition comprising the rule;
and

means for automatically responding to the barter order in accordance with the at least one condition of the rule.

15. (original) A method operable on a computer for establishing rules to respond to a barter order, the barter order including a first security to be sold in a barter and a second security to be purchased in the barter, the method comprising the steps of:

storing on said computer a plurality of variables and a plurality of operators;
receiving through a graphical user interface input from a user selecting from the plurality of variables and operators to form at least one condition; and
responsive to the input, selecting the at least one condition to form a rule for automatically responding to the barter order.

16. (original) A method in accordance with claim 15 wherein:

at least one of the first security and the second security includes a quantity thereof; and
the barter order further including an effective time range.

17. (original) A method in accordance with claim 15 wherein the input from the user includes selecting at least one variable from the plurality of variables, at least one operator from the plurality of operators and at least one constraint to form the at least one condition.
18. (original) A method in accordance with claim 17 wherein the plurality of variables includes: the identity of one or more of the first and second securities, the delta between the buy and sell prices of the first and second securities, the relationship between the SIC codes of the first or second securities or any other securities, the market cap of the first or second securities, the average daily volume traded of the first or second securities and the debit value of the bid/ask spread of the first and second securities.
19. (original) A method in accordance with claim 15 wherein the rule further includes at least one pricing tier comprising an offer price range within which a rule is operative and an offer size value up to which a rule is operative.
20. (original) A system for establishing rules to respond to barter orders, comprising:
 - a processor;
 - a memory operatively connected to said processor and storing a barter order, the barter order including a first security to be sold in a barter and a second security to be purchased in the barter;
 - the memory further storing a plurality of variables and a plurality of operators, the memory further storing instructions operable with the processor to cause the processor to perform the steps of:
 - receiving through a graphical user interface input from a user;
 - responsive to the input, selecting from the plurality of variables and operators to form at least one condition; and
 - responsive to the input, selecting the at least one condition to form a rule for automatically responding to the barter order.

21. (original) A system in accordance with claim 20 wherein:
at least one of the first security and the second security includes a quantity thereof; and
the barter order further including an time date range.
22. (original) A system in accordance with claim 20 wherein the selecting step includes selecting at least one variable from the plurality of variables, at least one operator from the plurality of operators and at least one constraint to form the at least one condition.
23. (original) A system in accordance with claim 22 wherein the plurality of variables includes: the identity of one or more of the first and second securities, the delta between the buy and sell prices of the first and second securities, the relationship between the SIC codes of the first or second securities or any other securities, the market cap of the first or second securities, the average daily volume traded of the first or second securities and the debit value of the bid/ask spread of the first and second securities.
24. (original) A system in accordance with claim 20 wherein the rule further includes at least one pricing tier comprising an offer price range within which a rule is operative and an offer size value up to which a rule is operative.
25. (original) A method for establishing rules to respond to a barter order, the barter order including a first security to be sold in a barter and a second security to be purchased in the barter, the method comprising the steps of:
storing a plurality of variables and a plurality of operators;
receiving input from a user;
responsive to the input, selecting from the plurality of variables and operators to form at least one condition; and
responsive to the input, selecting the at least one condition to form a rule for automatically responding to the barter order.

26. (original) A system for establishing rules to respond to a barter order, the barter order including a first security to be sold in a barter and a second security to be purchased in the barter, comprising:

means for storing a plurality of variables and a plurality of operators;

means for receiving input from a user;

means, responsive to the input, for selecting from the plurality of variables and operators to form at least one condition; and

means, responsive to the input, for selecting the at least one condition to form a rule for automatically responding to the barter order.

27 – 135 (canceled)